TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PTR SECTION STAFF GUIDANCE

WATER/WASTEWATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS – SAME LOT SIDE REQUIRED SEPARATION DISTANCES

Rule Affected: Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.44(e) et al., rules apply to installations of waterlines, wastewater mains or laterals, and other conveyances/appurtenances identified as potential sources of contamination. When new potable water distribution lines are constructed, they shall be installed no closer than nine feet in all directions to wastewater collection facilities. Where the nine-foot separation distance cannot be achieved, the criteria of §290.44(e)(4) & (5) applies.

Background:

Water and wastewater service connections have typically been on opposite corners on the front of the lot or have the water in the front and wastewater at the back of the lot due to the rules requiring separation of waterlines and wastewater mains and laterals. Fire hydrants typically were placed next to the water side and clean outs were on the wastewater side. When water and wastewater services are on opposite lot corners of the front of the lot, they are separated by more than the required 9 feet and comply with TCEQ rules regarding separation distances. It also allows for the required 9 feet separation of fire hydrants and cleanouts from wastewater and waterlines, respectively.

Developers in municipal areas are constructing on smaller lots and utilities such as gas, electrical, phone, cable, water and wastewater are competing with each other for space. Electrical and gas companies have safety concerns for workers when wet utilities are in near proximity of their facilities. Public and private utility companies are asking for both water and wastewater to be on the same lot lines creating possible contamination issues and situations that do not meet the required separation distances.

If water and wastewater service connections are on the same corner of the lot, separation distances are usually inadequate. In some cases, the water and wastewater lines may even be placed in the same trench, thereby increasing the risk of contamination. When service connections are on the same corner of the lot, separation distances for most standard details do not meet TCEQ rules and are not protective of public health. Fire hydrants cannot be placed at either corner of the lot and must now be placed somewhere in front of the home closer to the middle of the lot.

Guidance:

Plan reviewers should use the attached sketch as a go-by to minimize the risk for contamination of the potable water. Some aspects of the protective measures include:

- Wastewater service SDR 26 and pressure rated to 150 psi;
- Wastewater in separate trench from water with wastewater lines encased with cement stabilized sand meeting §290.44(e)(4)(B)(v), and having a slump of 4-inches or less;
- Water is 2 feet above wastewater at all points except cleanout opening;
- Water Meters placed in typical service boxes with lips 3-inches above cleanout opening;
- The water saddle tap is 9 feet from the wastewater service lateral, crossing it at 90 degrees and 2 feet above the wye wastewater service lateral; and,
- Fire hydrants shall not be installed within nine feet vertically or horizontally of any wastewater main, wastewater lateral, or wastewater service line regardless of construction.

Finalized and Approved by:

Finalized and Approved by: Joel Klumpp, Manager, 10/04/2017

If no formal expiration date has been established for this staff guidance, it will remain in effect until superseded or canceled.

Revision History

Date	Action	Action by
09/21/2017	Revised	RWS/aw
06/12/2017	Created	Robert W. Sims, P.E.
10/04/2017	VunRe	Vera Poe, P.E.
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